SUPPLEMENT TO THE

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

LONDON SATURDAY OCTOBER 24 1942

INSURANCE ACTS COMMITTEE

Application for War Bonus for Practitioners

The progress of recent endeavours to obtain a war bonus for insurance practitioners was reported to a meeting of the Insurance Acts Committee on Sept. 24. The chairman (Dr. E. A. Gregg) said that, following the last meeting of the Committee, an appointed deputation met representatives of the Ministry of Health, and later a reply was received from Sir John Maude, secretary to the Ministry, contesting the arguments which had been advanced. Thereupon an interview was sought with the Minister himself, which took place on Sept. 22, two days before the present meeting. Mr. Ernest Brown had replied that there was no money available in the pool for this purpose, and that he could take action only in one of two ways—either by going to Parliament to obtain quite fresh arrangements, or by a special war grant, which was against general Government policy. He also hesitated to commit himself in view of the immediate issue of the report of the Beveridge Committee, which might make recommendations recasting the whole of the arrangements. At the same time he promised careful consideration of the points which the deputation had advanced.

The report of the Minister's remarks was conveyed to the Committee, together with the cogent arguments advanced by Dr. Gregg, Dr. J. A. Brown, and other members of the deputation. It was agreed that the Committee should hold a further meeting before the Panel Conference in order to frame its recommendations following upon the receipt of the considered reply of the Minister.

(The I.A.C. is meeting on Oct. 22 to consider the Minister's reply.)

Insurance Practitioners and Medical Planning

The other principal subject which occupied the Committee was the replies received from Local Medical and Panel Committees to the questions posed in the interim report of the Medical Planning Commission. The definition of objects of medical service as set out in the draft report was generally accepted, and the principle of free choice of doctor and patient as an essential feature of the service was agreed to almost without qualification by the committees which had replied. Group practice in some form was also favourably considered by the majority of the committees, and the I.A.C. endorsed this view.

Longer debate took place on the question whether the provision, whatever its character, should be made by the Government for the whole of the community or for part of it only. The question of the 10% or 5% of the population remaining after insured persons and their dependants and others of like economic status had been dealt with was variously answered by the committees, but the I.A.C., by 17 votes to 6, adopted a similar resolution to one carried by the County of Ayr Panel Committee, that provision should be made only for persons compulsorily insured, their dependants, and others of like economic status. Other conclusions of the Committee, after considering the views of Panel Committees, were against the establishment of a whole-time salaried Government medical service, in favour of the two-way extension of National Health Insurance (to include dependants and others and to bring in consultant and specialist services), and, by a majority, in favour of the general principle of health centres; but a resolution of the Annual Representative Meeting was also passed by the Committee, that all registered practitioners should have a right to take part in the service and, so far as possible, a choice of the area in which they would serve. On the question of the method of remuneration of practitioners—that is, whether by a basic salary plus a capitation fee or by some other method—the Committee expressed no opinion in the absence as yet of sufficient data.

Financial Assistance for Aged and Infirm Practitioners

With the Committee sitting as the National Insurance Defence Trust a discussion arose on the objectives of the allocations from the interest of the Fund for the purpose of enabling aged and infirm insurance practitioners to retire from practice. The Treasurer (Dr. Bone) reminded the Committee that this arrangement was instituted a few years ago in order to keep the service from the disrepute into which it might fall if practitioners by reason of age or infirmity continued to do insurance work when no longer capable of properly carrying out their obligations. It was intended to deal with those cases under which action under the Medical Benefit Regulations was contemplated or was likely to arise, but applications were now being made under the assumption, apparently, that the end in view was purely benevolent or charitable. Two applications had come before the subcommittee that day and had been adjourned because they had been made on behalf of practitioners who were ill and in poor circumstances, but against whom there was no suggestion that a complaint had been or was likely to be preferred. So far as the charitable motive was concerned, the B.M.A. had its own Charities Fund and there was also the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund, and the proper course would be for Panel Committees to subscribe to those. The Trust gave its opinion that the matter was one which should be clarified, and it is likely to be raised in one form or another at the Conference.

NATIONAL EYE SERVICE

Fee for Ophthalmic Medical Examination

The last meeting of the Ophthalmic Group Committee, held on Sept. 22, with Mr. Bishop Harman presiding, considered the report of a conference which recently took place between members of the National Ophthalmic Treatment Board and representatives of approved societies on the subject of the fee for ophthalmic medical examination. At that conference the approved societies' representatives, while not unwilling to discuss some increase in the fee charged to insured persons entitled to optical benefit, were unanimous in their opposition to any differentiation on grounds of income as between different classes of insured persons. The proposal of the Group Committee had been to make no change in the fee payable for insured persons and others in receipt of an income of less than £250 a year, but to charge an increased fee for the persons with higher incomes, including those with incomes up to £420 newly brought into National Health Insurance. The approved societies declared that such discrimination or means test would be administratively impossible, quite irrespective of the financial aspect. On the question of the amount of the increase, the societies also said that their funds could not possibly allow an increase to 15s. 6d., the figure originally approved by the Group Committee; they declared that the amount available for additional treatment benefits was fixed for them, not by them, after their quinquennial valuations.

The Group Committee agreed that a report of the conference should be circulated to their constituents, together with a further document, prepared by their chairman, showing the yield in total amounts which would be forthcoming under various proposed arrangements. One member suggested that in the elections of the new Group Committee, which are to take place immediately, members should seek a clear mandate on this issue, but as against this it was pointed out that members were elected for a number of years and on many other issues. It was eventually agreed that a plebiscite should be taken forthwith, the position being clearly set out to the ophthalmic medical practitioners of the country, and that any action to be taken on the result of the plebiscite should be left to the new Group Committee.

National Eye Service after the War

A memorandum on a scheme for a National Eye Service after the war was submitted by a special subcommittee. It was considered useful to have such a document in existence in case at any moment in the various movements for planning and reconstruction occasion should arise for its presentation in

authoritative quarters. The object of the scheme was described as the co-ordination of the ophthalmic services of the nation in order to provide the whole community with an efficient, economic, and accessible eye service, and its essential requirements were that examination of the eyes and treatment of eye diseases and defects should be carried out by those properly trained and experienced, that the scheme should be easy to administer and economically sound, and that its benefits should be accessible to all. The three units under the scheme were described as the ophthalmic medical practitioner—the only person competent to decide whether the case is one for correction of an error of refraction or other treatment—the refractionist, and the dispensing optician. The position and status of the refractionist were considered at length. Until some determined date the refractionist would be either a medical practitioner who wished to do refraction work or a sight-testing optician whose right to practise refraction must be regularized by legislation. After the determined date the non-medical refractionist would belong to an ancillary branch of the profession with a duly regularized training, qualification, examination, and discipline. The part to be played by the refractionist and the way in which his work should be controlled were duly set out. The document was very critically examined by the Group Committee and some portions of it were recast. It was agreed that the redrafted document should be submitted to the first meeting of the new Group Committee.

Industrial Subcommittee

It was announced that the N.O.T.B. was proposing to set up a small industrial subcommittee, with two members appointed by the Group Committee and two by the committee of the Guild of British Dispensing Opticians, with a view to arranging for the "servicing" of factories, not only examining the eyes of workers but advising on lighting and similar matters. The two members appointed for this purpose by the Group Committee were Mr. Bishop Harman and Mr. E. F. Preston.

Correspondence

National Eye Service

SIR,—Members on the B.M.A. list of ophthalmic medical practitioners will shortly receive a report drawn up in accordance with the conclusions of the last meeting of the Ophthalmic Group Committee. This report will deal with the possibility of attaining agreement with the approved societies on the fees for eye service to insured persons through the National Eye Service. Each member will be asked to put down his opinion on the questions set out before him. The summary of all these answers will be directions to the new Ophthalmic Group Committee (to be elected this month) in their work of negotiation.

There is one point I feel I must put before my colleagues in medical eye work. There can be no doubt that at the end of the present world crisis there will be changes in the arrangements of medical practice of all kinds, and no doubt including changes in medical eye work. When such changes are being considered by the medical profession and by Parliament our position as ophthalmic medical practitioners will be greatly influenced by the position at that time of the National Eye Service. If it is then working well, as it has been in the ten years before the war and particularly during the war, then it is certain that the position of ophthalmic practitioners will be weighty. Therefore I suggest to my colleagues that in answering the questions of the plebiscite they should think of the future even more than of the present. What we do now may have a great effect upon the future of efficient medical care of precious human eyesight.
—I am, etc.,

N. BISHOP HARMAN.

H.M. Forces Appointments

ROYAL NAVY

Surg. Capt. H. St. C. Colson, C.B.E., to be Surg. Rear-Admiral.

Surg. Capt. G. R. McCowen, O.B.E., has been placed on the Retired List.

Surg. Lieuts. R. McM. Latta, W. Wilson, B. W. Walford, and J. P. T. Wellwood to be Surg. Lieut.-Cmdrs.

Surg. Lieut. R. E. Lauder has been transferred to the Emergency List.

G. G. Wallis to be Surg. Lieut.

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

Acting Surg. Lieut.-Cmdr. J. Ronald to be Surg. Lieut.-Cmdr.

Prob. Temp. Surg. Lieuts. R. Wadia, D. W. Bain, J. W. M. Humble, and S. C. F. Stephenson to be Temp. Surg. Lieuts.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Lieut.-Col. R. D. Davy, M.C., having attained the age for retirement, is retained on the Active List supernumerary to the establishment.

Major (Temp. Lieut.-Col.) T. P. Buist to be Lieut.-Col.

Capt. (Temp. Major) R. St. J. Lyburn to be Major.

Short Service Commission.—Capt. A. H. T. F. Fullerton has been placed on the half-pay list on account of ill-health.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Major-Gen. J. W. West, C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., late R.A.M.C., having attained the age limit of liability to recall, has ceased to belong to the Reserve of Officers.

Col. G. B. Edwards, D.S.O., late R.A.M.C., having attained the age limit of liability to recall, has ceased to belong to the Reserve of Officers.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Lieut.-Col. L. F. K. Way, D.S.O., has reverted to the rank of Major at his own request whilst employed during the present emergency.

Capt. (Temp. Major) R. N. Porritt to be Brevet Major under the provisions of Article 168, Royal Warrant for Pay and Promotion, 1940.

Capt. and Brevet Major (temp. Major) L. J. Sheil, M.C., having attained the age limit of liability to recall, has ceased to belong to the Reserve of Officers.

War Subs. Capt. (Temp. Major) J. B. Lloyd, from temp. commission, to be War Subs. Capt. and Temp. Major, retaining his present seniority.

TERRITORIAL ARMY, R.A.M.C.

Lieut.-Col. W. C. Gunn, T.D., having attained the age limit, has relinquished his commission and is granted the rank of Col.

Capt. C. H. G. Price has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health and is granted the rank of Major.

War Subs. Capt. G. C. Babington has been placed on the half-pay list on account of ill-health.

War Subs. Lieut. R. C. Connoly from R. Sussex R., T.A., to be Lieut.

2nd Lieut. J. S. M. Pollock from supern. for Service with Glasgow Univ. Contingent, Senior Training Corps (Artillery Unit), to be Lieut.

LAND FORCES: EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

The initials of War Subs. Capt. A. A. F. Shepherd are as now shown and not as stated in a *Supplement* to the *London Gazette* dated Sept. 15, 1942.

War Subs. Capt. J. B. Murray has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health and is granted the rank of Major.

War Subs. Capts. G. R. H. Wrangham and J. Howard have relinquished their commissions on account of ill-health and are granted the rank of Capt.

Lieuts. R. Collins and B. Press have relinquished their commissions on account of ill-health and retain their rank.

To be Lieuts.: G. P. Goodwin, R. S. Lawrie, G. C. Acres, E. Bacon, J. Birch, A. B. Black, R. B. Body, T. Brady, C. O. S. B. Brooke, F. M. Brook, N. J. Brown, R. J. Buxton, D. Caddy, K. B. Chakravarti, A. D. Chisholm, G. Clarke, P. B. Counsell, T. Culloty, P. G. S. Davis, D. G. Dixon, A. P. Douglas-Jones, R. I. T. Dunnachie, A. H. Dunnett, J. Foley, J. G. Gant, F. C. Garrow, J. Halstead, J. Hilton, F. E. Hobbs, M. W. Hutchings, S. Hyman, R. J. Keating, R. G. Lilly, C. R. Lowe, L. E. Lucas, P. W. McLaughlan, M. J. McSwiney, P. F. Malim, P. J. Mulcahy, W. T. North, G. Ormiston, D. S. Orr, A. Paterson, E. Petrie, D. V. Phillips, D. D. L. Rees, A. C. Rogers, G. K. T. Roche, G. M. Ross, D. W. Seth-Smith, P. E. Steele-Perkins, F. V. Squires, B. J. Stephens, W. P. Stevens, S. D. Stock, J. W. Tweddle, C. R. Veall, P. M. Vicary, R. L. Wynne, E. J. Williams, J. J. Lineham, L. H. J. W. Worth, A. T. Aylmer, G. H. Ball, L. C. Beadle, H. J. M. Browne, A. Cheyne, H. Copeman, W. T. Donovan, R. H. Dummett, R. R. Fells, J. C. Gilbert, R. Gould, W. S. Gross, E. N. Hailey, C. J. Hodson, D. Holland, F. G. Jenkins, B. Joseph, R. J. Kernohan, L. P. McBrien, S. C. Mitra, R. H. A. Parker, J. McD. Paterson, F. E. Pilkington, R. N. Rutherfurd, G. J. Shanklin, W. R. McL. Stevenson, L. A. Wilson, J. Witherow, B. M. Wright, P. Zimmerman, A. L. Woolf (*correction*).

WEEKLY POSTGRADUATE DIARY

BRITISH POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL, Ducane Road, W.—*Daily*, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Medical Clinics, Surgical Clinics and Operations, Obstetric and Gynaecological Clinics and Operations. *Daily*, 1.30 p.m., Post-mortems. *Tues.*, 10 a.m., Paediatric Clinic; 11 a.m., Gynaecological Clinic. *Wed.*, 11.30 a.m., Medical Conference; 2 p.m., Deficiencies in Wartime, Dr. M. Pyke. *Thurs.*, 2 p.m., Dermatological Clinic. *Fri.*, 12.15 p.m., Surgical Conference; 2 p.m., Gynaecological Conference; 2 p.m., Sterility Clinic.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES & LECTURES

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.—*Demonstrations: Mon.*, 4 p.m. Prof. A. J. E. Cave: Certain Neuro-osseous Relations. *Tues.*, 4 p.m. Surg. R/A. C. P. G. Wakeley: Injuries of the Skull and Brain. *Wed.*, 4 p.m. Prof. Cave: Articulations of the Axial Skeleton. *Thurs.*, 4 p.m. Surg. R/A. Wakeley: Injuries of the Skull and Brain. *Fri.*, 4 p.m. Prof. Cave: Anatomy of the Shoulder-girdle.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.—*Mon.*, 2.30 p.m. Section of Odontology. *Tues.*, 5 p.m. Joint meeting of Sections of Medicine and of Epidemiology and State Medicine.

CHADWICK TRUST.—At Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., *Tues.*, 2.30 p.m. Mr. W. T. Creswell: Forensic Aspects of Wartime Public Health Legislation.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, 11, Chandos Street, W.—*Mon.*, 5 p.m., General Meeting; 5.15 p.m., Presidential Address by Dr. A. Hope Gosse: The Health of the Doctor.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE, 28, Portland Place, W.—Harben Lectures by Prof. J. C. Drummond: *Mon.*, 3 p.m. Background to the Study of Nutrition in Wartime. *Tues.*, 3 p.m. Deficiency Conditions to be Guarded Against in Wartime. *Wed.*, 3 p.m. Measures taken to Maintain a Good Nutritional Condition of the People in Wartime.

ROYAL NATIONAL THROAT, NOSE AND EAR HOSPITAL, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.—*Fri.*, 4 p.m. Mr. F. W. Watkyn-Thomas: Treatment of Deafness.

B.M.A.: Diary of Central Meetings

NOVEMBER

5 Thurs. Journal Board, 1.45 p.m.

B.M.A.: Branch and Division Meetings to be held

BRIGHTON DIVISION.—At Royal Pavilion, Brighton, Thurs., Oct. 29, 3 p.m. Annual general meeting.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH.—Joint meeting with Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Northern Counties Medical Society at Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Thurs., Oct. 29, 2.15 p.m. Clinical demonstration; 3.45 p.m. Dr. J. A. Charles: New Fields in Preventive Medicine. All members of H.M. Forces in area are invited to attend.

SWANSEA DIVISION.—At Mackworth Hotel, Swansea, Thurs., Oct. 29, 1 p.m. Dr. A. J. Amor: Medicine and Munitions.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS

The charge for inserting announcements under this head is 10s. 6d. This amount should be forwarded with the notice, authenticated with the name and address of the sender, and should reach the Advertisement Manager not later than first post Monday morning to ensure insertion in the current issue.

BIRTH

GIBBONS.—On Oct. 10, 1942, at Ripley Court, Ripley, to Ruby, wife of Leslie A. Gibbons, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., a daughter—Margaret Ann.

DEATH

ROBERTSON.—On Oct. 16, 1942, William Robertson, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., of Marsh, Huddersfield.